

REMARKS

The final Official Action dated July 13, 2005 has been received and its contents noted. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application and for conducting a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative on October 12, 2005.

Claims 1-5 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are pending, of which claims 1 is independent.

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for acknowledging during the telephonic interview on October 12, 2005 that the claim amendments, as presented above, distinguish the presently claimed invention over that of Lyons.

Turning now to paragraph 4, page 3 of the Official Action mailed July 13, 2005, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Lyons (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,574). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Lyons neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As amended, claim 1 of the present invention is directed to an image processing apparatus including at least two signal processor modules interconnected with each other in series, each of these signal processor modules having an input port through which data is input, a memory which stores data, a signal processor portion which carries out processing on input data according to a program and an output port through which data is output, wherein at least one of the signal processor modules outputs in parallel both unprocessed input data and processed data obtained by processing the input data. It is respectfully submitted that the patent to Lyons fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Particularly, it is noted that the decoder 136 of Lyons outputs one of the unprocessed input data and processed data. That is, the Lyons reference discloses outputting either the unprocessed input data or the processed data. As noted in col. 3, lines 40-42 of Lyons "the decode processor of 136 receives and processes the delivered data stream S8 and passes the processed or unprocessed data stream S9 to the transmitter." Clearly, the decoder 136 outputs only one kind of data and not in parallel of both the unprocessed input data and processed input data as is set forth in accordance with Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in

independent claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Lyons.

Moreover, as discussed during the telephonic interview on October 12, 2005, Lyons discloses a studio transmitter link method and apparatus, particular to a studio transmitter link that minimizes transmission error rates. The Examiner equated Lyons' encode processor 132 and decode processor 136 of Lyons to Applicants' claimed signal processor modules. However, Lyons's encode and decode processors include a Reed-Solomon encoder and Reed-Solomon decoder, respectively. Clearly, these modules of Lyons are not functionally or structurally equivalent to the digital signal processor modules of the presently claimed invention which performs digital signal processing but not the type of encoding and decoding function of the processors of Lyons.

Consequently, since each and every feature of the present claims is not taught (and is not inherent) in the teachings of Lyons, as is required by MPEP Chapter 2131 in order to establish anticipation, the rejection of claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as anticipated by Lyons is improper.

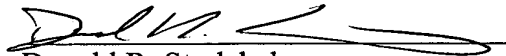
With reference to paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Claims 2-4 have stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of Ahamed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,831 – hereafter Ahamed). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Ahamed does nothing to overcome the aforementioned shortcomings associated with the teachings of Lyons. That is, Ahamed does not teach disclose or suggest at least one of the signal processor modules output in parallel processed and unprocessed data, as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1 as well as dependent claims 2-4 clearly distinguish over the combination proposed by the Examiner and are in proper condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Official Action, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of Durkos et al. (U.S. Patent 4,777,590 – Durkos). This rejection is likewise respectfully traversed in that the patent to Durkos fails to overcome aforementioned shortcomings associated with the teachings of Lyons.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-5 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000